

Q: Dear Chief, What are the laws when I ride my bicycle on the streets? Jonathan—Oak Hollow

Dear Jon,

Remember that bicycles are prohibited on FM 455 between Hwy 5 and the West City limits. But, if you are riding them elsewhere, there are a lot of rules for Texas bicyclists. For the most part, you have to obey the same traffic laws as a car. You also have to have some safety equipment mounted on the bicycle.

The Texas Transportation Code says:

Sec. 551.104. Safety Equipment:

(a) A person may not operate a bicycle unless the bicycle is equipped with a brake capable of making a braked wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

(b) A person may not operate a bicycle at nighttime unless the bicycle is equipped with:

(1) **a lamp on the front of the bicycle** that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in front of the bicycle; and

(2) on the **rear of the bicycle**:

(A) **a red reflector** that is:

- (i) of a type approved by the department; and
- (ii) visible when directly in front of lawful upper beams of motor vehicle headlamps from all distances from 50 to 300 feet to the rear of the bicycle; **or**

(B) **a lamp that emits a red light** visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear of the bicycle.

Sec. 551.103. Operation on Roadway:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a person operating a bicycle on a roadway who is moving slower than the other traffic on the roadway shall ride as near as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway, unless:

(1) the person is passing another vehicle moving in the same direction;

(2) the person is preparing to turn left at an intersection or onto a private road or driveway; or

(3) a condition on or of the roadway, including a fixed or moving object, parked or moving vehicle, pedestrian, animal, or surface hazard prevents the person from safely riding next to the right curb or edge of the roadway.

(4) the person is operating a bicycle in an outside lane that is:

(A) less than 14 feet in width and does not have a designated bicycle lane adjacent to that lane; or
(B) too narrow for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to safely travel side by side.

***Phone numbers: Emergency???? Dial 911.** To have a police officer sent to you in a non-emergency, call 972-547-5350. During normal business hours, the APD number is 972-924-2848.

*For Crime Prevention information visit www.annacrimewatch.org or www.annatexas.gov and go to the police pages.

If you have a question or comment, please email: kjenks@annatexas.gov